

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0210-20__

SPONSOR: Eugene Tso

TITLE: An Act To Relating Health, Education And Human Services, Law And Order, Naabik'iyáti' And The Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 17, Law And Order Code, By Enacting As An Offense, Section 378, "Violation Of An Emergency Order Or Action"

Date posted: August 25, 2020 at 5:12 PM

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Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
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(928) 871-7586

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0210-20

DATE: August 24, 2020

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT TO RELATING HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 17, LAW AND ORDER CODE, BY ENACTING AS AN OFFENSE, SECTION 378, "VIOLATION OF AN EMERGENCY ORDER OR ACTION"

PURPOSE: The proposed legislation, if enacted, will amend the Navajo Nation Code at Title 17, Law and Order Code, to include as an offense, "Violation of an Emergency Order or Action."

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 08-30-20
Eligible for Action: 08-31-20

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2020
3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5 _____
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0210-20

9
10 AN ACT
11 TO RELATING HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND
12 ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING
13 TITLE 17, LAW AND ORDER CODE, BY ENACTING AS AN OFFENSE, SECTION
14 378, "VIOLATION OF AN EMERGENCY ORDER OR ACTION"

15
16 BE IT ENACTED:

17 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 18 A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of
19 the Navajo Nation Council. The committee is empowered to provide legislative
20 oversight on matters involving health and social services, oversee Navajo Nation
21 policies and priorities to optimize the delivery of social services and health services to
22 the Navajo people, and review and recommend resolutions relating to social services
23 and health. See 2 N.N.C. §§400 (C)(1) and (4) and 401 (B)(6)(a).
- 24 B. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation
25 Council. 2 N.N.C. § 600 (A). The Law and Order Committee has oversight over the
26 Division of Public Safety and its programs. 2 N.N.C. § 601(C)(1). Purposes of the
27 committee include enabling the Navajo Nation "to more effectively provide efficient
28 public safety services on the Navajo Nation." 2 N.N.C. § 600(C)(6).
- 29
30

- 1 C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9), "a proposed resolution that requires final action by
2 the Navajo Nation Council [must] be assigned to standing committee(s) having
3 authority over the subject matter at issue and the Naabik'iyáti Committee."
4 D. The Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §102(A), is the "governing body of the
5 Navajo Nation" A primary role of Navajo Nation Council delegates is policy-making.
6

7 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

8 A. COVID-19 is a dangerous and extremely contagious respiratory virus. The virus is
9 pandemic and has reached the Navajo Nation. COVID-19 is spreading at an alarming
10 rate within the Navajo Nation; as of July 15, 2020, the Navajo Nation has reported
11 8,370 cases of COVID-19 and 406 related deaths.

12 B. The World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International
13 Concern on January 30, 2020; the United States Department of Health and Human
14 Services declared a Public Health Emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak on
15 January 31, 2020; and the World Health Organization officially declared a pandemic
16 due to COVID-19 on March 11, 2020.

17 C. On March 11, 2020, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management,
18 with the concurrence of the Navajo Nation President and Vice President, declared a
19 Public Health State of Emergency on the Navajo Nation due to the presence of
20 COVID-19 in areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. Resolution No. CEM 20-03-11.
21 The President and Commission have issued other Public Health Emergency Orders:
22 including: Order No. 2020-001 dated March 18, 2020 (declaring the outbreak of
23 COVID-19 and limiting mass gatherings); Order No. 2020-002 dated March 19, 2020
24 (quarantining the Chilchinbeto Community); Order No. 2020-003 dated March 20,
25 2020 (ordering individuals living on the Navajo Nation to stay home and shelter in
26 place except for essential activities, prohibiting visitors to the Navajo Nation, and
27 closing all businesses on the Navajo Nation except essential businesses); Order No.
28 2020-004 dated March 29, 2020 (implementing a daily curfew from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00
29 a.m. for all Navajo Nation residents, extending the shelter in place order, and further
30 limiting public gatherings); Order No. 2020-005 dated April 5, 2020 (implementing a

1 57-hour weekend curfew on April 10-13); Order No. 2020-006 dated April 16, 2020
2 (extending the weekend curfew for April 17-20 and April 24-27, and closing Navajo
3 Nation essential businesses during curfew hours); Order No. 2020-007 (requiring face
4 masks in public); and Order No. 2020-008 dated April 29, 2020 (extending the
5 weekend curfew to May 11, 2020). The Navajo Nation Office of the President and
6 Vice President issued Executive Order 002-20 on March 31, 2020 (closing all Navajo
7 Nation offices except essential personnel through April 21); and Executive Order
8 003-20 on April 21, 2020 (extending the closure order to May 17, 2020).

- 9 D. There likely will be other orders issued as the risk of the spread of COVID-19
10 continues.
- 11 E. As COVID-19 remains a major health concern for the Navajo Nation, it is in the best
12 interest of the Navajo Nation to amend Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code in regards
13 to violations of Emergency Orders and Actions and enforcement thereof.

14

15 **SECTION THREE. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 17**

16 The Navajo Nation amends the Title 17, the Law and Order Code of the Navajo
17 Nation as follows:

18 _____

19 **TITLE 17. LAW AND ORDER**

20 **Chapter 3. Offenses**

21 **Subchapter 8. Obstruction of Navajo Nation Administration**

22 ****

23 **§ 378. Violation of an Emergency Order or Action**

24 **A. Offense. A person commits Violation of an Emergency Order or Action if he or**
25 **she recklessly, knowingly, intentionally or negligently fails to comply with any**
26 **requirement or prohibition of an Emergency Order or Action**

27 **B. For the purposes of this offense an Emergency Order includes any order which**
28 **mandates or prohibits certain activities by individuals, and which is issued by**
29 **the Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Commission on Emergency**
30 **Management, the President of the Navajo Nation or Chief Justice of the Judicial**

1 Branch during a state of emergency as declared by the Navajo Nation President
2 or his or her designee.

3 C. For the purposes of this offense an Emergency Action includes any authorized
4 actions taken by the Navajo Council or Navajo President during a state of
5 emergency as declared by the Navajo Nation President or his or her designee.

6 D. Lack of notice or failure to receive notice of the Declaration of Emergency or
7 Emergency Order or Action shall not be a defense.

8 E. Sentence.

9 1. Any person found guilty of a first offense shall be ordered to pay a fine of
10 \$500.

11 2. Any person found guilty of a second offense during the same Declaration
12 of Emergency shall be ordered to pay a fine of \$1000.

13 3. Any person found guilty of a third or subsequent offense during the same
14 Declaration of Emergency shall be ordered to pay a fine of \$1000 and to a
15 term of imprisonment of 30 days.

16 4. When the offender is a corporation, partnership, unincorporated
17 association, government or government authority, or an individual
18 registered to do business within the Navajo Nation, the sentence may
19 include suspension or cancellation of business registration or other
20 business authority issued by the Navajo Nation pursuant to 17 N.N.C.
21 §220(C).

22 F. Sentencing mandatory. The fine amount(s) and imposition of term of
23 incarceration are mandatory, not at the discretion of the Court, and based solely
24 on the first-time or recurrence of the conviction. In addition:

25 1. No fine imposed for any conviction of this offense may be converted to
26 Community Service Work unless the Court receives evidence that a
27 defendant is unable to pay the fine. Before converting the fine to
28 Community Service Work, in whole or in part, the Court will consider
29 installment payments made by defendant over a reasonable period of time
30 in lieu of the conversion.

1 2. No portion of any term of incarceration shall be suspended or subject to
2 probation or parole. If a defendant is actively employed at the time of
3 sentencing and provides evidence of such to the Court, the Court may
4 order the defendant to report to the detention center on days off of work
5 until the sentence is served in full. Any deviation from a consecutive 30-
6 day term of incarceration must be detailed in the sentencing order with the
7 specific dates and times the defendant must report to the detention center.

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11 **SECTION FIVE. CODIFICATION**

12 The provisions of the Act which amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation
13 Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative
14 Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo
15 Nation Code.

16
17 **SECTION SIX. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

18 Should any provision of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation
19 Supreme Court or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo
20 Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of the Act shall remain the law of the Navajo
21 Nation.

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23 **SECTION SEVEN. EFFECTIVE DATE**

24 Amendments enacted herein shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).
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